

## Track and Trace at our church

Have you downloaded the NHS Covid app? As a church we are committed to keeping others safe and you can now use the app to check in at St Mary's and St Mark's - simply scan the code on the NHS track and trace posters.

Find out more at <https://covid19.nhs.uk>

## Give and Share

Give and Share is a new ministry of Denham Parish Church, responding to the needs of people in our parish and region.

To find out more, talk to Craig Alexander or go to [denhamparish.church/giveandshare](http://denhamparish.church/giveandshare)

## THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR

The new design Real Advent Calendar is the UK's only Fairtrade calendar which comes with a free 24 page Christmas story-activity book and which supports charitable causes.

**Please consider giving it as a gift to friends and neighbours to help them discover the real story of Christmas.**

Order the Real Advent Calendar from Denham Parish Church and take advantage of free delivery (pick up your calendar from our church office after we notify you).

To order, please contact our church office.

**IMPORTANT:**

**Please order by 31 October.**

## Please pray for ...

- those affected most by this crisis through sickness, loneliness, loss of job
- pupils, parents and teachers as the new school year gets under way
- those who are sick namely Jessie Sims and those suffering from bereavement especially the family of David Nicholson

email: [office@denhamparish.church](mailto:office@denhamparish.church)

phone: 01895 832771

## Living well through the next six months

Living with COVID-19 will be hard for everyone this winter. The Prime Minister has asked us all to observe the Rule of Six. There are lessons that Christians can draw from this number to help us live well in these times.

### > SIX MONTHS IS THE NEW HORIZON

Focus on Easter and lean back into the great themes of the church year.

### > SIX DAYS TO WORK AND A SABBATH TO REST

Reclaim the gift of one day each week for rest and re-creation.

### > SIX PEOPLE TO JOURNEY WITH

Rediscover church as small groups of people supporting one another.

### > SIX WAYS TO BE SALT AND LIGHT

Identify the people and community organisations you can support.

### > SIX PERCENT TO YOUR CHURCH

If your income is stable, increase your giving to sustain the local church.

### > SIX PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR

Pray for people you know to discover the riches of our faith.

"...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." *Romans 8.37-39*

Find out more: [oxford.anglican.org/six](http://oxford.anglican.org/six)

## ONLINE DONATIONS



If you wish to make a donation to Denham Parish Church, please scan this code with the camera or QR app on your smartphone and follow instructions.



# PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

11th October 2020

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

**Welcome to St Mary's Church!** We are so glad you are here. If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello to the service leader or a member of the welcome team so we can welcome you personally. **Please take this sheet with you at the end of the service.** If you read this at home, please find a simple service on the inside pages, which you can use to guide your prayers. *Christoph Lindner, Rector*

## Reflections on The Parable of the Wedding *by Tom Wright*

God is not like a soothing parent, settling children back to sleep after a nightmare. He wants us to be grown-ups, and that includes learning that life isn't like a game of chess where if we do badly we can start again tomorrow. The great, deep mystery of God's forgiveness isn't the same as saying that whatever we do isn't really important because it'll all work out somehow. Of course when Jesus told the parable, it had a particular point and focus: This story is about the coming of God's kingdom, the arrival of the Messiah. Israel's leaders in Jesus' day were like guests invited to a wedding. But they had refused. The Messiah was here but they didn't want to know. Now God was sending out new messengers to the wrong parts of town: prostitutes, riff-raff, nobodies. Good news!

But there is one important point to make: We want to hear is all right exactly as they are. But when the blind and lame came to Jesus, he didn't say, 'You're all right as you are.' He healed them. His love reached people *where* they were but refused to let the prostitutes and extortioners stay *as* they were. Love wants the best for the beloved. Their lives were transformed, healed, changed.

God's kingdom is a kingdom in which love and justice and truth and mercy and holiness reign unhindered. They are the clothes you need to wear for the wedding. And if you refuse to put them on, you are saying that you don't want to stay at the party. That is the reality. If we don't have the courage to say so, we are deceiving ourselves, and everyone who listens to us.



St. Francis Renounces all Worldly Goods (Giotto, 1297-99)

**STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL**

## WELCOME

### OPENING PRAYER (from Psalm 106)

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever. Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise? Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. And let all the people say, 'Amen.' Praise the Lord!

### HYMN

Thy hand, O God, has guided  
thy flock, from age to age;  
the wondrous tale is written,  
full clear, on ev'ry page;  
our forebears owned thy goodness,  
and we their deeds record;  
and both of this bear witness:  
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,  
nor leave thy work undone;  
with thy right hand to help us,  
the vict'ry shall be won;  
and then by all creation,  
thy name shall be adored.  
And this shall be their anthem:  
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

### CONFESSION

**Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. Amen.

## COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### PRAYER OF BLESSING for Michael and Christine Matthew on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary

### BIBLE READING

#### Matthew 22.1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both

good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### TALK PART 1

#### HYMN

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
and his righteousness  
and all these things shall be added  
unto you,  
Allelu, Alleluia.

### TALK PART 2

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God. *(From Philippians 2)*

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every  
name: that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus  
Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the  
Father. Amen.**

## PRAYERS

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN

Lord, for the years  
your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us,  
cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us,  
pardoned and provided,  
Lord of the years,  
we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for ourselves;  
in living power remake us,  
self on the cross  
and Christ upon the throne;  
past put behind us,  
for the future take us,  
Lord of our lives,  
to live for Christ alone.

### THE BLESSING

God the Father, who has given to his Son the name above every name, strengthen you to proclaim Christ as Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.